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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 JUAN JOSE VEGA-FLORES,

14 Defendant.
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No. CR20-036-RSL

PRELIMINARY ORDER OF FORFEITURE

17 THIS MATTER comes before the Court on the United States' Motion for Entry of
18 a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture ("Motion") seeking to forfeit, to the United States,
19 Defendant Juan Jose Vega-Flores's interest in the following property:

- 20 1. One Smith & Wesson M&P9 9mm Pistol, bearing serial number NBC1427,
21 and any associated ammunition, that was seized from the Defendant Juan
22 Jose Vega-Flores's residence on February 19, 2020.

23 The Court, having reviewed the United States' Motion, as well as the other papers
24 and pleadings filed in this matter, hereby FINDS entry of a Preliminary Order of
25 Forfeiture is appropriate because:

- 26 • The above-identified property is forfeitable pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853, as
27 it constitutes or is traceable to proceeds of his commission of Conspiracy to
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Distribute Controlled Substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), and 846; and,

- Pursuant to the plea agreement he entered on January 26, 2021, the Defendant agreed to forfeit the above-identified property pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853 (Dkt. No. 65, ¶ 10).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COURT ORDERS:

1. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853 and his plea agreement, the Defendant's interest in the property is fully and finally forfeited, in its entirety, to the United States;

2. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(4)(A)-(B), this Preliminary Order will be final as to the Defendant at the time he is sentenced, it will be made part of the sentence, and it will be included in the judgment;

3. The Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, and/or its authorized agents or representatives ("DEA") shall maintain the property in its custody and control until further order of this Court;

4. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(6) and 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), the United States shall publish notice of this Preliminary Order and its intent to dispose of the property as permitted by governing law. The notice shall be posted on an official government website – currently www.forfeiture.gov – for at least thirty (30) days. For any person known to have alleged an interest in the property, the United States shall, to the extent possible, provide direct written notice to that person. The notice shall state that any person, other than the Defendant, who has or claims a legal interest in the property must file a petition with the Court within sixty (60) days of the first day of publication of the notice (which is thirty (30) days from the last day of publication), or within thirty (30) days of receipt of direct written notice, whichever is earlier. The notice shall advise all interested persons that the petition:

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- a. shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the petitioner's alleged interest in the property;
- b. shall be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury; and,
- c. shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the property, as well as any facts supporting the petitioner's claim and the specific relief sought.

5. If no third-party petition is filed within the allowable time period, the United States shall have clear title to the property, and this Preliminary Order shall become the Final Order of Forfeiture as provided by Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(2);

6. If a third-party petition is filed, upon a showing that discovery is necessary to resolve factual issues it presents, discovery may be conducted in accord with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure before any hearing on the petition is held. Following adjudication of any third-party petitions, the Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture, pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(2) and 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), reflecting that adjudication; and,

7. The Court will retain jurisdiction for the purpose of enforcing this Preliminary Order, adjudicating any third-party petitions, entering a Final Order of Forfeiture, and amending the Preliminary Order or Final Order as necessary pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(e).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 21st day of June, 2021.



THE HON. ROBERT S. LASNIK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

1 Presented by:

2 /s/ Krista K. Bush

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